THE EXAMINER.

No. 54. SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 1809.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few.
SWIFT.

No. 54.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ENQUIRY.

Of all the thousand feelings that have been excited by the Report of the Chelsea Board, not a single one is in it's favour. People express themselves according to their varieties of temperament, some with contemptuous indifference, some with laughter, with lamentation, or with mere rage; but the judgment is universally the same; and the Board now appears to the whole nation, as it always did to the thinking part of it, a very feeble, inconsistent, inconsequent, and useless contrivance.

In the first Report, not a word is said directly either against the Generals or the Ministry; but as facts are stated, implication could not be avoided; and by implication they are both severely reprehended. The very first paragraph, in which any thing like an opinion is hazarded, attributes the secure and easy retreat of the enemy after the battle of Vimiera, solely to their superiority in *cavalry*. This, like every other reprehension in the Enquiry, is an echo of what has been a thousand times observed by the public, and shews how well the vile system has been understood. The Board disapprove Sir ARTHUR'S eagerness to pursue the French, since on a previous occasion, when the enemy had not half so numerous a cavalry as on the 21st, he had pursued "a more inconsiderable and beaten army without any marked advantage;" and the circumstances, under which two Generals superseded each other in the space of 24 hours, are rebuked with the amazingly bold epithet of *extraordinary*. But after all the inquiries of the gallant Board, after their evident disapprobation of Sir ARTHUR'S haste, and Sir HARRY'S and Sir HEW'S ignorance, they pronounce no judgment whatever, in the first Report, upon the propriety of the Convention, though they sat in judgment upon this question and this only: they merely state that none of the five *distinguished* Lieutenant-Generals employed on the occasion objected to it, and therefore they think no further proceeding necessary, "because," say they, to close their exquisite reasoning, "*howsoever* some of us may differ in our sentiments respecting the *fitness* of the Convention in the relative situation of the two armies, it is our unanimous declaration, that UNQUESTIONABLE ZEAL AND FIRMNESS appear throughout to have been exhibited by Lieutenants-Generals Sir H. DALRYMPLE, Sir H. BURRARD, and Sir A. WELLESLEY."

Now in my opinion, and in the opinion, I am sure, of every sane person who can distinguish darkness from light or a cocked-hat from a commander, this Report is almost as extraordinary a paper as the Convention itself. I need not dwell upon the beauty of it's composition, for every General, God knows, is not a CÆSAR or XENOPHON, though I think, that from men of rank and noblemen, who have received a classical education, better phrases might have been expected than "*whether* any," for if any,—"half the cavalry *as* on the 21st,"—"contribute *for*,"—"*successively superseding*"—"because, *howsoever* some of us may differ."—It is much to be doubted, whether such writers are proper judges of that *grammatical meaning* to which they say the Convention was restricted. But if WELLESLEY'S signature of a paper which he flatly condemned is to be praised for "zeal and firmness," if Sir HEW'S patient ignorance of every thing connected with Portugal and his irresolution whether to take advice or not, whether to take the command or not, are to be praised as "zeal and firmness," a man of sound feelings has nothing to wish but to be loaded with contemptuous epithets that shall do him justice by contrast. When folly wears the laurel, wisdom should go bareheaded. The Board of Inquiry seem to have exactly copied the behavi- of WELLESLEY, when he called the Convention an extraordinary paper, and then signed it; for they bestow the same epithet on the double supersession of the Generals, and then tell us it wants no further inquiry. In short, this decision, if decision it can be called, had so little to do with the object of the inquiry, that it appeared absurd to the intellectual faculties of the Duke of YORK, who of all Generals must be allowed to have a delicate apprehension of causes and effects and a most masterly criticism in Conventions. His Royal Highness therefore writes a letter to the President of the Board, pointing out the omission of the Board's opinion respecting the conditions, &c. &c. and requesting a more decided judgment upon the principles of the Convention of the *Helder*—I beg pardon—what can I be about—the Convention of Cintra.

Upon the receipt of this letter, the Inquirers found that they could no longer share the general character of the first Report quietly among themselves, so as to divert individual scrutiny; the question of yes or no was put to them; and they took courage and answered it, only one of them disapproving the Armistice and Convention both, and only two besides this one, disapproving the Convention. Let us observe too, that the dissentient voices alone gave any reasons for their opinion: the rest, who no doubt had quite as excellent reasons, that is, for giving none, merely said they approved. The approvers,

by this system of dashing through difficulties, certainly get rid of one great difficulty, which has entrapped the other gentlemen, particularly Lord MOIRA; for how that nobleman could at once disapprove the Armistice and Convention, and yet say that he saw no further reason for inquiry, is a mystery that has roused very general astonishment, and I am sure very general concern. I am afraid that throughout the whole transactions of the Board, there has been too much timidity, or courtliness, or goodnature, if they please, in expressing themselves upon the military characters of the Conventionalists. But if the Members of the Board were made judges against their will, if they were unwilling (gallant souls!) to speak as they thought of the men before them, lest they should hurt their feelings and injure their reputation, let them ask themselves whose feelings are most hurt, and whose reputation most injured by such an attempt to screen the degraders of their country, such a miserable coquetry with that vile prostitute, the military system. This too, I suppose, is "zeal and firmness," for the Board must have a character themselves, before they can give it to others. Lord MOIRA has given most excellent reasons for his disapproval both of the Armistice and Convention; but the stronger these reasons are, the weaker does his conduct appear in the first instance. The first few sentences of his declaration shew that he at once felt ashamed of his weakness, and yet did not know how to get rid of his accommodating temper. But it is in vain that his Lordship has gained the reputation of the social and soldier-like qualities, it is in vain that he is a scholar among scholars, and a warrior among warriors, if he has not wisdom enough and boldness enough to oppose domestic enemies as well as foreign. Reformers will do nothing in these times, who "just hint a fault and hesitate dislike." This is not the age, in which we must bow and smirk to our enemies, and profess to be shocked to differ with them.

It is quite unnecessary to retrace the grounds of inquiry into this subject: the Convention Generals accuse each other, the Inquirers differ most materially with each other, and the whole nation calls loudly on the Ministry. Every day's experience brings us nearer to the first causes of these things: the ascent is evident in the present instance:

The Convention is owing to the weakness of our Generals.

The weakness of the Generals is owing to their want of a proper military education and spirit, and to the mean subserviency of the Ministers.

Lastly, these deficiencies and these meannesses, are entirely owing, the former to the corruptions of the military system, the latter to the more immediate corruptions of the Constitution.

Nothing, therefore, will have any sound effect, but a reformation in both. This is plain reasoning; it is manifest to every honest Englishman; and I have no hesitation in saying, it is irrefragable. What signifies a partial victory over the "Duke of ABRANTES," or any other Duke? What does it signify, whether we have troops in Portugal, Spain, or France itself? Do we conquer the genius and the judgment of the French? Do we drive their Dukes into the arms of parasites and prostitutes, or their victorious Generals upon Boards of Inquiry? The courtiers may corrupt all the strong words of our language and use "zeal and firmness" as they have used "magnanimity;" but I am much mistaken, if the Report of a similar Board in Paris, would not create more joy in this country than all the victories which Sir ARTHUR WELLESLEY or the Duke of YORK himself ever obtained.

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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

SEVENTEENTH BULLETIN OF THE ARMY OF SPAIN.

MADRID, DEC. 10.—His Majesty reviewed yesterday on the Prado the Duke of Dantzic's corps, which arrived the day before yesterday at Madrid. He expressed his satisfaction at these brave troops. To-day he reviewed the troops of the Confederation of the Rhine, forming the division commanded by Gen. Leval. The regiments of Nassau and Baden behaved well. The regiment of Hesse Darmstadt did not sustain the reputation of the troops of that country. The Colonel and Major appear to be men of moderate talents.

The Duke of Istria set off on the 5th for Guadalaxera. He scoured the whole road from Saragossa and Valencia, made 500 prisoners, and took a great deal of baggage. At Baston a battalion of 500 men, summoned by the cavalry, were broken in upon.—The enemy's army, beaten at Tudela and Calatayud, abandoned by its Generals and a great number of soldiers, was reduced to 6000 men.—On the 8th, at midnight, the Duke of Istria attacked at Santa Cruz a corps which covered the flight of the enemy's army. That corps was closely pursued and a thousand prisoners taken. It wished to throw itself into Andalusia by Madridego. It appears to have been forced to disperse in the mountains of Cuenca.

EIGHTEENTH BULLETIN.

MADRID, DEC. 12.—The Central Junta of Spain had but little power; the greater part of the provinces paid it little submission, and all of them deprived it of the administration of the finances. It was under the influence of the lowest class of the people; it was governed by the minority. Florida Blanca was without any credit. The Junta was under the controul of two men, the one named Lorenzo Calvo, a grocer of Saragossa, who had in a few months obtained the title of Excellency: he is one of those violent men who appear in revolutions: his honesty was more than suspected. The other is called Tilly, formerly condemned to the gallows as a thief, the younger brother of a man of the name of Gusman, who formerly played a part under Robespierre during the reign of terror. As soon as any of the Members of the Junta opposed the violent measures that were proposed, these two wretches immediately called out "Treason," and immediately a mob was collected under the windows of Aranjeuz. The extravagance and wickedness of these dangerous men manifested itself upon all occasions. As soon as they learnt that the Emperor was at Burgos, and he would soon be at Madrid, they published a declaration of war against France, replete with insults and folly.

On the 11th, when the General of Division Lassalle, who was pursuing the enemy, arrived at Talavera de la Reyna, where the English had triumphantly passed ten days before, saying they were going to relieve the capital, a frightful spectacle met the eyes of the French. A body, cloathed in the uniform of a Spanish General, was suspended from a gallows, and pierced with a thousand bullets. It was General Benito San Jean, whom his soldiers in their terror and as an excuse for their Commander, cruelly sacrificed.—The Bishops of Leon and As-

torga, and a great number of Ecclesiastics, distinguished themselves by their good conduct and their apostolic virtues. The general pardon offered by the Emperor has produced a great effect. The destruction of the duties odious to the people and contrary to the prosperity of the state, and the measures which leave the numerous class of Monks no longer any uncertainty respecting their lot, produced a good effect.

The general animadversion is against the English. The peasants say, in their language, that at the approach of the French the English went away to mount their wooden horses (ships.)

NINETEENTH BULLETIN.

MADRID, DEC. 13.—Rosas surrendered on the 6th by capitulation. Two thousand men have been made prisoners. A considerable quantity of artillery was found in the place. Six English ships of the line, which were at anchor in the harbour, would not carry away the garrison.

The Emperor this day reviewed the whole of the united troops of the Duke of Dantzic, beyond the bridge of Segovia. Sebastiani's Division has marched for Talavera de la Reyna.

The breaking up of the Spanish troops is observed on every side. The new levies which were attempted to be raised disperse on all sides and return to their homes.

The details which we learn from the Spaniards respecting the Central Junta are all of a nature to place them in the most ridiculous point of view. That Assembly has already become an object of contempt with all Europe. Its Members, to the number of 86, have bestowed upon themselves titles and ribbons of every sort, and an annual allowance of 60,000 livres. Florida Blanca was a real man of straw: he is now ashamed of the dishonour he has brought upon his old age. As usually happens in such assemblies, two or three persons domineer over all the rest, and these two or three persons were in the pay of England. The opinion held by the city of Madrid respecting the Junta is notorious: they are as much the object of the mockery and derision as they are of the detestation of the inhabitants of the capital.

Never was there so fine a December: it is like the beginning of Spring. The Emperor avails himself of the fine weather to remain in the country, one league from Madrid.

PROCLAMATION.

SPANIARDS!—You have been misled by perfidious men. They have engaged you in a senseless struggle, and you have had recourse to arms. Is there one amongst you, who after a moments reflection upon all that has passed, would not be convinced that you have been the sport of the eternal enemies of the Continent, who take delight in witnessing the effusion of Spanish and French blood? What possible result would attend even the success of some campaigns? An endless war upon your soil, and a tedious uncertainty respecting the fate of your properties and lives. Within the space of a few months, you have been delivered up to all the afflictions of popular factions. The defeat of your armies has been the work of some marches; I have entered Madrid: the rights of war would justify me in making a signal example, by washing away in blood the outrages offered to me and to my nation: but I have listened to the dictates of clemency only. Some men, the authors of all your calamities, shall alone be punished. I shall speedily drive from the Peninsula that English army which has been sent to Spain, not for the purpose of assistance to you, but to inspire you with a false confidence and to mislead you. I had declared to you in my Proclamation of the 2d of June, that I wished to be your Regenerator. To the rights which had been ceded to me by the Princes of the last dynasty, you wished that I should add the right of conquest. That shall not make any alteration in my intentions. I am even disposed to praise all that may be generous in your efforts; I am willing to admit, that your real interests have been concealed from you, that the real state of things has been disguised from you.—Spaniards, you destiny is in your own hands. Reject the poisons which the English have spread amongst you:—let your King be assured of your affection and your confidence, and you will be more powerful and more happy than ever you have been. All that obstructed your prosperity and your grandeur, I have destroyed; the chains which have born down the people, I have broken; a free Constitution gives you a limited and constitutional, instead of an absolute Monarchy. It depends upon yourselves whether the Constitution shall still continue in your land. But should all my efforts prove fruitless, and should you not merit my confidence, nothing will remain for me but to treat you as conquered provinces, and to place my brother upon another throne. I shall then place the Crown of Spain upon my own head, and cause it to be respected by the guilty; for God has given me power and inclination to surmount all obstacles.—Given at our Imperial Camp at Madrid, Dec. 7, 1808. NAPOLEON.

MUNICIPAL SITTING.

Then follows an account of a Municipal Sitting, held at Madrid on the 9th December, which was attended by the Corregidor and all the other City Officers; the Bishops and inferior Clergy; the body of the Nobility; the Deputations representing the 64 Divisions of Madrid, &c. &c. The Corregidor informed the meeting that he had waited on the Emperor, to lay at the foot of his throne the tribute of the gratitude of the inhabitants of Madrid, for the kindness and clemency which his Majesty had shown towards that city. The Emperor conversed with the Corregidor in the most benevolent manner, and told him that the fate of Madrid would depend on its own conduct, which would be a happy one if the inhabitants adhered faithfully to the constitution, and acknowledged with sincerity their legitimate King Don Joseph Napoleon. Here the Corregidor drew a picture of the good-nature of King Joseph, who had employed his best offices for the safety of the capital and the neighbouring cities. The meeting then resolved that a fresh tribute of thanks should be presented to the Emperor, imploring him to indulge the capital with the presence of their King, to pardon those who had taken up arms, and to order his troops to respect property and religion. A similar tribute of thanks to Joseph Napoleon was then resolved upon, and an humble supplication that he would favour the city of Madrid with his presence, to the end that under his just and beneficent government good order, justice, and tranquillity, may be restored within its walls. The *proces verbal* was accompanied by several thousand signatures.

IMPERIAL DECREES

Several Imperial Decrees are subjoined, relative to the Courts of Justice, the Finances, &c. &c By one of them, a general pardon is granted to all Spaniards, who shall be allegiant to BONAPARTE, with the following exceptions; and the Members of the Council of Castile are branded as cowards, and unworthy of being Magistrates of a brave nation. The following persons are proscribed as avowed enemies to France and Spain:—

The Duke d'Infantada	Duke de Hijar
Duke de Medina Celi	Duke de Ossuna
Marquis de Santa Cruz	Count de Fernan Nunes
Count d'Altamira	Prince of Castelfranco
Pierre Cevallos, late Minister of State.	Bishop of Santander.

By another, the Inquisition is abolished; the number of Convents is reduced to one-third; and feudal rights are abolished.

SPAIN.

[*FROM THE PATRIOTIC PAPERS.*]

ROYAL DECREE.

The Supreme Central Junta, considering that it is not sufficient for a nation newly engaged in war with an intrepid and experienced enemy, to have numerous armies; but that it is indispensible that all the inhabitants should be soldiers, and that every house should be an inexpugnable fortress; considering, also, that our former Government, confiding in an alliance which it believed sincere, had the feeble condescention to suffer the military spirit, which is identified with the Spanish character, to evaporate so, that it has been necessary to create it entirely anew; and that, though our new soldiers are all animated with that valour which patriotism inspires, yet, they

cannot but be wanting in the knowledge of tactics and experience, which, however, is speedily acquired in the field of battle, where only it can be found, and when acquired, must render them invincible: The Government has therefore resolved to adopt the most energetic and effectual measures, authorising and granting full powers to all towns and considerable villages to oppose to the enemy such a resistance that if, unfortunately, he should be able to penetrate to them, every step may cost him a victory; that to this end the whole nation may be united, and every means employed, suitable to the defence of the particular part of the country where the enemy is found, that his progress may be retarded, his movements impeded, and that we may convince him what may be done by patriotism, resolved to conquer or die.

In consequence of this determination, which no doubt will animate all the inhabitants of this kingdom with that heroism which their brethren have manifested in the repeated attacks they have hitherto sustained, and being ultimately convinced, that the means to prevent our cruel enemy from polluting our soil with his horrid crimes and sacrileges, is to augment the army under the command of the Marquis de la Romana, and to raise another to defend the posts of Manzanal and Sanabria, has decreed:—

I. That within the term of eight days, the contingent of each province for the first conscription shall be completed.

II. That this being completed, considering the urgent necessity of reinforcing the army with the greatest rapidity, and covering the entrances of the kingdom, a new enlisting shall be begun of all the males who are unmarried, or widowers without children, from the age of 15 to 45, without admitting any other exceptions than those provided by the regulation of the 18th of November, published by the Supreme Central Junta.

[The other articles relate only to the particular regulations for enlisting, arming, &c. this new militia or conscription.]

JUAN INNOCENCIO MARTINEZ.

Kingdom of Gallicia, Dec. 14, 1808.

DON PEDRO CARO Y SUYIDA, &c. MARQUIS OF ROMANA, GENERAL IN CHIEF, &c.

By an express just arrived, I have received the following official communication from his Excellency D. Martin de Gary, Secretary General, and Member of the Supreme Central Junta of Government, &c.

"MOST EXCELLENT SIR,

"The King and Lord, Ferdinand VII. and, in his Royal name, the Supreme Junta of Government of the kingdom, omitting no means which can any ways promote the safety and prosperity of the nation, has thought proper to resolve, that your Excellency is not only to command the army of which you are General in Chief, but also the armies of Old Castile, Leon, Asturias, and Gallicia, superintending with regard to all the said armies of the troops, and the mass, and putting in requisition the horses, mules, and other necessaries which are required to augment our army, and put it on that respectable footing which the present extraordinary circumstances require. His Majesty has been informed, and sees with the deepest concern, that to the *want of subordination, cowardness is added by many*, whence arises that scandalous *desertion* which excites astonishment in our allies, and damps their general ardour. This conduct, so contrary to the sentiments of true Spaniards, and which cannot be corrected by mild measures, demands that your Excellency should check it with all the rigour of military law, extending the punishment to all those who assist or protect deserters. For this purpose his Majesty invests your Excellency with the most ample power which may be required to cause yourself promptly and implicitly to be obeyed, and rouse the enthusiasm, which begins to slacken in the provinces, and especially in Old Castile. To attain that end, extraordinary and vigorous measures are required, calculated to secure the safety, which cannot be done without the prompt and exemplary punishment of the *vile and degenerate wretches*, who deceive this country and their King, by usurping the title of their defenders, while they cowardly resign them to the enemy. From that severe punishment such justices and places are not to be exempted as shew any indolence in checking disorder and confusion, or do not execute your Excellency's orders with the necessary zeal. His Majesty invests you with such great authority, in order that you may be able to answer the implicit confidence which he places in your energy and zeal; the necessary orders have been dispatched for that purpose to the respective Juntas of Government, that they may possess full knowledge thereof, and obey your Excellency, to whom I communicate the above royal order, for your information, and compliance with the same. God preserve your Excellency many years.

"MARTIN DE GARY."

"1808.

"To the Marquis de Romana, &c."

In pursuance thereof I ordain, that all the inhabitants of the kingdom of Old Castile, Leon, Asturias, and Gallicia, of from 16 to 45 years of age, are immediately to arm themselves with such muskets, carbines, pistols, sabres, and every other description of arms as they have in their possession. That all young men, unmarried, or widowers, without children, are to repair, without the least delay, to the places which shall be pointed out by the Junta of Government in the respective provinces and districts, to be immediately incorporated with the armies. All other persons shall also arm to defend the entrance of their respective provinces. All horses and mules belonging to any persons whomsoever, and put in a state of requisition, are immediately to be delivered up for the use of the armies.

All armourers and smiths are, in preference to any other business, to devote their exertions to the fabrication of arms and pikes; the latter being destined for such inhabitants as cannot be supplied with any sort of arms. All persons refusing to enlist, or deliver up horses, mules, and other necessaries, shall be committed as traitors to their country, and be punished in an exemplary manner. All vile deserters shall be shot as soon as apprehended, without any exception or mercy. Cowards, who in an engagement with the enemy, are the first to run away and cause disorder and confusion, may be killed on the spot for their own punishment, and as an example to others. All those gallant defenders of their country, worthy of the heroic Spanish name, who distinguish themselves by deeds of superior valour, shall be rewarded in such a manner, that their names be handed down to posterity with those marks of public approbation, which shall be best calculated to immortalize their glory. Marquis DE LA ROMANA.

Head-quarters, Leon, Dec. 1808.

OFFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

Don Jose Palafox, General in Chief of the army of Arragon, under date of the 2d December, made the following report to the Supreme Central Junta:—"The enemy, from 12 to 15,000 strong, supported by 2000 horse, attacked, on the 1st instant, the extensive line of the canal of Arragon, near Saragossa. The bridge, defended by the intrepid Arragonese, was three times taken and retaken. The division of Asturian troops, which serves in this army, behaved with the utmost gallantry, and attacked the enemy with such uncommon intrepidity and spirit, that they completely routed and compelled him to retreat with the utmost precipitation, notwithstanding his great superiority in numbers. He left 2000 killed on the field of battle; and was convinced by his complete defeat, that if he lately obtained some advantages, he was merely indebted for them to casualties arising from circumstances, and to the want of subordination and discipline which prevailed among some of our troops. Let them imitate the perseverance of the Arragonese, and their obedience to their Generals and Chiefs, and the enemy will soon experience that neither the rapidity of his movements, with his boasted superiority in tactics, can subdue a nation which has sworn to live and die free. Spaniards, let us fulfil that sacred oath. God, the king, the country, our wives, and children, exact it from us. Let us not frustrate their hopes, the hopes of all Europe, which has her eyes *fixed* on us with admiration and envy."

[It is a singular anecdote connected with the following Pro-

clamation, that the Junta objected to its publication at the time, when it was proposed to carry its objects into execution by the retreat of the troops under Sir David Baird; but when that measure was abandoned, the objection was removed, and they themselves ordered the publication without communicating their intention to the British Commander.]

PROCLAMATION OF SIR DAVID BAIRD.

"*Head-quarters, Astorga*, 1st *Dec.* 1808.

"The events that have occurred in Biscay, and in the neighbourhood of the Ebro, have made it indispensably necessary that the British troops should be concentrated, in order more effectually to assist and support the Spanish nation in the heroic exertions she is applying for the defence of her independence. Under these circumstances, Lieutenant-General Sir D. Baird, Commander of the British Division in Castile and Leon, informs the royal subjects of these kingdoms, that he has just received orders from his Excellency Sir J. Moore, Commander in Chief of his Britannic Majesty's army in Spain, to unite his forces with those of the said General, without loss of time, by the road to Portugal.

"The object of this movement is in no respect to evacuate Spain, or to abandon a cause so dear to Great Britain. The only design is to combine the whole of the British forces, in order to enable them to act in a situation where they can render their services more beneficial.

"Gallicia, strong by nature, does not require for its protection a more numerous army, nor can it possess a more gallant one than the army of the left; composed principally of the courageous youth of the Kingdom (Province), which is now united in Leon under the orders of the highly distinguished Commander his Excellency the Marquis de la Romana. The resort of more troops, in the present circumstances, in the defiles of the mountains, would be prejudicial, since they would consume the provisions and other resources of the country, without increasing its security.

"To the worthy inhabitants of these kingdoms the most grateful acknowledgments are due from the British forces, for the hospitality and friendship with which they have been treated in every situation; and the Lieutenant-General hopes the feelings of reciprocal attachment and respect will prevail, not only now, but that they will continue to animate both nations to the latest posterity.

"In taking leave of the subjects of this part of the Peninsula, the Lieutenant-General feels it to be his duty to exhort them, by the loyalty they owe to the Sovereign, by the affection they bear to their families, and by all that is sacred in religion, to unite for the protection of their country.

"Unless the Government and the people combine their utmost efforts in this just and honourable cause, Spain will be exposed to the most serious danger; but if these endeavours be not wanting, under the direction of Divine Providence, all will terminate in victory and happiness."

Lugo, Dec. 24.—The latest accounts from Head-quarters, state it to be the intention of Sir J. Moore to advance with all possible expedition to Burgos, with a view of getting into the rear of the enemy: but we are here completely ignorant, as well of the strength of the latter as of the force destined to attack him: in fact, it is impossible to decide on the propriety of this movement: every confidence is, however, placed in the acknowledged talents of the General. Of Madrid we have no certain information, though there is much reason to suppose it in possession of the French. Our cavalry have had some bitter affairs near Benevente, where 400 of our brave fellows have defeated double their number of the enemy, and made near 300 prisoners; in all, not less than 700 have been taken. The snow has fallen in immense quantities, which has rendered the roads nearly impassible; notwithstanding which, and other difficulties, the troops have borne the fatigues of a long march with their usual perseverance, and have behaved well.

Benevente, Dec. 24.—The brave corps of English cavalry which embarked at Corunna, and which, from its splendid and military appearance, was the admiration of all who beheld it, has, under the orders of Lord Paget, covered itself with glory. On the 20th inst. 400 British attacked, at Sahagan, 900 French cavalry, part of a corps of from 12 to 13,000 men, which is in the valley of Saldana; the English fought with such valour that they put the enemy to flight, making 260 prisoners, besides 30 killed, and several wounded.

Corunna, Dec. 29.—We look with much anxiety to the next accounts from the army, as, from the approaching vicinity to the enemy, a battle may soon be expected to take place. The whole force under Sir J. Moore consists of 46,000, of which 10,000 are Spanish, detached from the army of the Marquis de la Romana; at least such is the report of the day. Our troops are represented as being in the highest spirits, and desirous of meeting the enemy.—The 7th dragoons has had much skirmishing with the French cavalry, and, in one affair, defeated a body of 900; of which they made 300 prisoners. Our loss was trifling. *We absolutely know nothing positive respecting Madrid, or of the enemy's force in that quarter.* Various letters announce, that the French were in possession of El Retiro, and had placed guards in different parts of the city; but that they could not compel the inhabitants to give up their arms. Other accounts state, that it has capitulated. *Barcelona is reported to have surrendered to the English and Spaniards, after a most destructive bombardment.*

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

A most daring highway robbery was committed on Thursday se'nnight, on the road leading from Bungay to Norwich. Mr. Josephson and Mr. Cohen, both of the latter place, were returning home in a one-horse gig, when they were stopped, near Trowse, by three footpads, who rifled them of thirty guineas and a silver watch. The robbers then obliged the two Gentlemen to descend from their vehicle, in which they took their seats, and rode off. The most singular circumstance, however, is, that articles of jewellery, to the amount of 800l. were secreted in the gig, and of which, no doubt, they had received intelligence, and thus became possessed off. The horse, gig, and the two boxes (in which the jewellery had been packed) empty, have been found in a lane leading from Norwich to Bixley. The robbers are said to have been genteelly habited.

A more affecting case than the following has seldom occurred. The wife of Mr. Middleton, a farmer at Winmoor, near Heslerton, upon the Wolds, in Yorkshire, with her infant child, her sister and the house-keeper, had been at a farm-house of Mr. Middleton's, at some little distance, and set out on their return home in the afternoon of Saturday se'nnight. Two men belonging to the farm had been with Mr. Middleton afterwards, and told him of the party having left the farm, but supposed, as the day was so stormy, they must have returned, with an intention of stopping there for the night. Should this not prove to be the case, the men proposed to go back immediately to Mr. Middleton, and inform him of it. Not hearing any thing from them, Mr. Middleton supposed the party had returned and were safe. About ten o'clock at night, however, as he was going to look after some sheep near the house, his foot struck against something, which, on examination, proved to be the body of a dead child; and his astonishment and affliction may be more easily conceived than expressed, when he found it to be his own and only daughter. On making further search immediately, his wife and house-keeper, and his wife's

sister, were found at a short distance, nearly lifeless; the two former are recovering, but his sister had lost the use of her limbs, and little hopes are entertained of her regaining the use of them.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty-Office, Jan. 1809.

Copy of a Letter from Captain Thomas Harvey, of his Majesty's ship the Standard, dated off Corfu, 26th June, 1808, to Vice-Admiral Lord Collingwood, Commander in Chief in the Mediterranean, and transmitted by the latter to the Hon. William Wellesley Pole.

My Lord—At day-light this morning I fell in with La Volpe, Italian gun-boat, commanded by Ensign de Vaisseau Michelf Mangin, carrying an iron four-pounder, with twenty men, well armed. The Legere, French dispatch boat, with a well armed crew of 14 men, was with La Volpe. At nine, the wind failing, I sent the pinnace, with Lieutenant Richard Cull, and the eight-oared cutter, with Captain Nicholls of the Royal Marines (both volunteers) in chase. After two hours rowing, the weather very hot, they approached La Volpe, who commenced a fire of musketry upon them, which was returned with the swivels, and when near, with muskets. On the boats approaching each quarter to board, the gun-boat pulled short round, and fired at the cutter both round and grape; the boats dashed at him, when he struck, and was taken possession of by Captain Nicholls; Lieutenant Cull immediately pushed on in chase of La Legere. Some time previous to this I had dispatched the yawl, with Lieutenant John Alexander, to be ready to cut her off; which affording him the opportunity of obliging her to run on shore about four miles northward of Cape St. Mary, the crew formed on the rocks above her, and endeavoured to prevent the yawl's approach; but she was taken possession of by Lieutenant Alexander, who was immediately after joined by Lieutenant Cull and Captain Nicholls; they towed her out, under a fire of musketry from the shore, which was returned by our marines in the boats with great spirit; one of the Frenchmen was seen killed. A French Ensign de Vaisseau was passenger in La Legere. I was much gratified on the return of the boats in learning we had not suffered.

In this little affair, the gallantry and good conduct of the officers and men concerned gave me very great satisfaction; both Captain Nicholls and Lieutenant Cull speak in high terms of the assistance they received from Messrs. Haines and Parker, master's mates of the Standard.

Monsieur Monier, Ensign de Vaisseau, on the Staff of General Dougelet of Corfu, was taken in La Volpe. I burnt both vessels. I remain, &c. Thomas Harvey.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

W. Jones, Great Portland-street, coach-maker.

BANKRUPTS.

J. Dawson, Tottington, Lancashire, innkeeper, to surrender Jan. 16, at five, 17, and Feb. 14, at eleven, at the White Horse Inn, Manchester. Attorney, Mr. Parker, Bury.

J. Smith, Nottingham, mercer, Jan. 18. 19, and Feb. 14, at one, at the Punch Bowl, Nottingham. Attornies, Messrs. Bigsby and Wells, Nottingham.

DIVIDENDS.

Feb. 25. W. Hope, Manchester, grocer.—Jan. 30. W. Cowperthwaite and J. Waring, Manchester, manufacturers.—Jan. 26. J. Whitehead, Manchester, cordwainer.—Feb. 14. J. Pate, Bury St. Edmunds, money-scrivener.—Feb. 14. B. Betts and A. Smith, Basinghall-street, factors.—Jan. 24. M. Joel, High-street, Shoreditch, dealer in glass.—Feb. 14. C. Glover, Albemarle-street, upholsterer.—Jan. 30. N. Hurry and C. H. Jones, Liverpool, merchants.—Jan. 7. W. Cowperthwaite, Old Fish-street, grocer.

CERTIFICATES, JAN. 24.

A. Saunders, Tottenham [illegible] cheese-dealer.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty-Office, Jan. 7.

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Lord Collingwood, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean, to the Hon. W. W. Pole, dated on board the Ocean, off Toulon, the 19th of October, 1808.

Sir,—I enclose a letter which I have just received from Lord Cochrane, Captain of the Imperieuse, stating the services which he has been employed in on the coast of Languedoc.

Nothing can exceed the activity and zeal with which his Lordship pursues the enemy. The success which attends his enterprizes clearly indicates with what skill and ability they are conducted; besides keeping the coast in constant alarm, causing a total suspension of the trade, and harassing a body of troops employed in opposing him, he has, probably, prevented those troops, which were intended for Figueras, from advancing into Spain, by giving them employment in the defence of their own coasts.

On the coast towards Genoa the enemy has been equally annoyed by the Kent and Wizard. Those ships have had that station some time to prevent the French ship sailing from Genoa, and have almost entirely stopped the only trade the enemy had, which is in very small vessels:—during their cruize there they have taken and destroyed twenty-three of those coasters. I inclose the letter of Captain Rogers, giving an account of the attack made at Noli, and the capture of the vessels in the Road.—I have the honour to be, &c.

Collingwood.

Imperieuse, Gulf of Lyons, Sept. 28, 1808.

My Lord,—With varying opposition, but with unvaried success, the newly constructed Semaphoric Telegraphs, which are of the utmost consequence to the safety of the numerous convoys that pass along the coast of France, at Bourdique, La Pinede, St. Maguire, Frontignan, Canet, and Foy, have been blown up and completely demolished, together with their telegraph-houses, 14 barracks of the Gens d'Arms, or Douanes, one battery, and the strong tower upon the Lake of Frontignan.

Mr. Mapleton, First Lieutenant, had command of these expeditions; Lieut. Johnson had charge of the field-pieces, and Lieut. Hore of the Royal Marines. To them and to Mr. Gilchrist, Assistant-Surgeon; Mr. Gurney, gunner, Messrs. Stewart and Stovin, Midshipmen, is due whatever credit may arise from such mischief, and for having with so small a force drawn about two thousand troops from the important fortress of Figueras in Spain, to the defence of their own coast.

The conduct of Lieutenants Mapleton, Johnson, and Hore deserves my best praise, as well as that of the other Officers, Royal Marines, and Seamen.

I have, &c. Cochrane.

Right Hon. Lord Collingwood, &c. &c.

Then follows a letter from Capt. Rogers, of his Majesty's ship Kent, off Genoa, detailing particulars of the capture of 10 deeply laden coasters, protected by a gun-boat, and at anchor close to the beach, abreast of the town of Noli. The boats of the Kent and Wizard were towed in by Capt. Ferris, of the latter They found the vessels fastened to the shore by ropes from their keels and mast-heads; they therefore pulled resolutely to the beach, exposed to the fire of two guns from the gun-boat, two field-pieces in a grove flanking the beach, a heavy gun in front of the town, and continued fire of musketry from the houses; but our brave tars leaped from the boats, and rushed undauntedly on the enemy. The heavy gun was soon spiked by Lieut. Chasman, second of the Kent, commanding the seamen, and Lieut. Hanlon, the marines. A considerable force of regular troops were dislodged from the grove by Capt. Rea and Lieut. Grant, of the marines, who brought off the two field pieces. In the mean time Lieutenants Lindsay, Moresby, and Bisset, who drove the enemy from the beach, took possession of the gun-boat, separated the vessels from their fastenings, and our people having embarked, brought the vessel out. One man was killed. One badly wounded (since dead). The enemy had many killed. The gun-boat

was national, with 45 men. The boats of the Kent and Wizard also brought out from under the guns of a fort three laden vessels and burnt a fourth.

Then follows an account of the capture by Capt. Pigot, of his Majesty's ship Circe, off Martinique, of the French corvette Palineur, of 16 guns and 79 men, mostly soldiers.—Also of the French brig Pylades, of 16 guns and 109 men, by his Majesty'sship Pompee, Capt. Cockburn, off Barbadoes.—Also of the capture (by the enemy) of his Majesty's brig Maria, of 16 guns and 65 men, by Le Sards, a large French corvette of 22 heavy guns. They fought in a dead calm, and when the Ensign haulyards were shot away, the French Captain asked, "Had we struck." Lieut. Bennett answered, "No," when he was shortly killed by three grape shot. The brig kept firing and did not strike till she was sinking. She afterwards went on shore, a wreck. Mr. O'Donnell, Midshipman, was also killed and four seamen, with 9 wounded, in this gallant affair.

BANKRUPTS.

J. Poore, Mill-lane, Tooley-street, Southwark, lighterman, to surrender Jan. 10, 21, and Feb. 18, at eleven, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Lee, Three Crown-court, Southwark.

T. Stone, Wilton, Hereford, cornfactor, Jan. 9, 19, and Feb. 18, at eleven, at the Rummer Tavern, All Saints-lane, Bristol. Attorney, Mr. Martin, Exchange-buildings, Bristol.

J. Woolf, Liverpool, merchant, Feb. 1, 2, and 18, at eleven, at the Globe Tavern, Liverpool. Attorney, Mr. Pritt, Water-street, Liverpool.

N. Blannin, Westbury-upon-Trim, Gloucester, timber-merchant, Jan. 21, Feb. 4, 18, at ten, at Guildhall, London. Attornies, Messrs. Field and Sheargold, Clifford's Inn.

S. Sampson and C. Chipchase, Bread-street, silk mercers, Jan. 10, 24, and Feb. 18, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Carpenter and Bailey, Basinghall-street.

DIVIDENDS.

Jan. 31. Wm. Wright, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire, draper.—Feb. 3. W. Hope, Brampton, Cumberland, manufacturer.—Feb. 16. T. Blaney, Bouverie-street, Whitefriars, merchant.—Jan. 31. G. W. Burgess, J. T. Lockyer, and R. Gill, Bristol, linen-drapers.—Feb. 7. J. Parkinson and J. Stork, St. Saviour's Church-yard, Southwark, hop-factors.—Jan. 28. T. G. and T. Francis, jun. Cambridge, merchants.

CERTIFICATES—JAN. 28.

W. P. Roper, London, merchant.—A. R. L. Delauney, Blakeley, Lancaster, dyer.—G. Elliott, Winchester-street, merchant.—G. Danson, and J. Walmsley, Liverpool, merchants.—G. Forster, Easter Dichesfield, Northumberland, miller.—J. Askew, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, straw-hat-manufacturer.—J. Trafford, Froddingham, Lincoln, beast-jobber.—W. Smith, Wolverhampton, butcher.—H. Henry, Liverpool, taylor.—R. Mordey, Bishop-Wearmouth, Durham, ship-owner.—W. Hawksey, Liverpool, merchant.

PRICE OF STOCKS THIS DAY.

Consols.....67 | Red. Ann..... .....66.

The TITLE, PREFACE, and INDEX, for the EXAMINER of last year, will be ready for delivery on Sunday next.

Many interesting Communications are delayed, for want of room.

THE EXAMINER.

London, JANUARY 8.

REPORTS seem to spring up from every corner at the beginning of the week, only to subside at the end of it. At this minute nothing certain is known respecting the operations either of English, French, or Spaniards. A Ministerial Bulletin, issued on Monday, said that letters of the 16th December had been received from Sir JOHN MOORE, who was then forming a junction with Sir DAVID BAIRD and *marching* with the hope of meeting SOULT. Four hundred horse of Lord PAGET's brigade are stated to have charged and put to the route 900 of the enemy's cavalry, who lost half their number. This is a revival of the old chivalrous maxim, one Englishman against two Frenchmen, which used to make us all so valiant when little boys. Nor is Lord PAGET's exploit improbable, when we consider the acknowledged irresistibility of the English charge, whether of cavalry or infantry; and a simple attack of this kind is a miniature, though a very small one, of that system of pointed and powerful decision, that system of the wedge, in short, with which BONAPARTE conquers the greatest obstacles. There can be little doubt that a division of English soldiers, stout as they are in limb and in temperament, would always master a hostile division of this kind in the same way. It is only when the decision becomes more intellectual, when it depends on Generals rather than on their men, that the enemy's superiority is to be apprehended. Sir J. MOORE is universally esteemed a man of undoubted courage and skill, but his opponents, SOULT and SEBASTIANI, have not only courage and skill too in a most eminent degree, but we may be assured that in case of check in the first instance, there are armies in reserve ready to pour in upon their assistance; and if MOORE were MARLBOROUGH himself, it is not to be expected that he could be ultimately victorious, when he has little or no assistance from home or from his allies, and labours under the corruptions of such a detestable military system. The courtier newspapers are anxious to convince us that the Ministers know nothing of the state of the French armies in Spain: what sort of a compliment this is, I know not; but it has been very reasonably calculated that at this minute there are more than 200,000 Frenchmen there, of whom the Ministry, it seems, know nothing. Notwithstanding the attempts that may be made to confuse the public observation by misrepresenting, miscalculating, misdating, and misdirecting the French operations in Spain, it is tolerably evident by this time, that the object of the two armies of SOULT and SEBASTIANI, the former of whom has reached the north of Spain, on the other side of us, while the latter has been marching up to Gallicia on this, is to enclose us, *a-la-cancer*, and *turn our flank*. Every day, therefore, draws the Gordian knot tighter, and if Sir JOHN does not make haste to prevent the two mighty arms from uniting, he must even cut through it, like ALEXANDER, if he can. The chances, as far as I can judge from intelligence, seem to have been in favour of a retreat on Gallicia, where a victory might have opened to him a clear champaign for his operations, for even if he can manage to cut through SOULT's division, he will only have new difficulties to oppose. In the north-eastern part of Spain, we may be assured, whatever the Ministry may know of the French armies, that there is

a powerful reserve waiting the opportunity or the necessity of attacking us, in case we do not retreat. It must be the great object, because it is the great ambition, of NAPOLEON, to beat us in our own persons; and it must be recollected, that this is not a mere campaign of one General with another, of SOULT with MOORE, or SEBASTIANI with BAIRD, but a war of the greatest military power of modern times, against a most corrupt and prostituted system.

The 17th, 18th, and 19th French Bulletins arrived in this country by the same singular conveyance as the former ones. They present the same stamp of BONAPARTE's pen, or at any rate of the pen which he guides, the same pithy decision, the same savage irony, and the same alternate passion and complacency. In the commencement he expresses his satisfaction with such of the troops of the Confederation of the Rhine as behaved well, but then, Messrs. Inquirers, he expresses his dissatisfaction with those who behaved ill. He does not call irresolution and inconsistency "zeal and firmness."—"The regiments of Hesse Darmstadt did *not* sustain the reputation of the troops of that country."—He tells them so: he does not hint it.—"The Colonel and Major appear to be men of moderate talents." He does not say a word of "zeal and firmness:" he does not receive these "men of moderate talents" with smiles at the levee or at head-quarters; he does not even look at them with a polite and blinking bashfulness, that feels hurt and dares not say so.—These things make a difference.

Upon the overthrow of the Inquisition, I have already remarked: and the new Proclamation of the EMPEROR shews that he does nothing whatever from principle. It is perhaps the most violent piece of unprincipled avowal that ever issued from his pen. His love is as furious as his hatred. He first opens his arms to the Spaniards, and then threatens them most dreadfully if they do not come. This threat is indeed the most flattering compliment he has hitherto made to the feelings of his new subjects. His opinions on governments seem to have been decidedly changed since he headed his letters to the Directory with "Liberty and Equality," he has quite deserted the rights of man for the rights of sovereigns; and I do not know whose rage for rights is more fantastic, TOM PAINE's or his own. "To the *rights*," he says in a bitter tone of irony, "which had *been ceded to me by the Princes of the last dynasty, you wished* that I should add the *right of conquest*." The threat consists of a resolution to place the crown on his own head, and to treat the country as a conquered province in case of it's obstinacy. JOSEPH, I suppose, in this event, would be presented with the throne of Portugal, or a portion of Italy, or, if he pleases, Greece. There are plenty of crowns for him, as long as there are so many corrupt states. The Proclamation concludes with a most singular sentence, that proves, I think, the dependance of this man on a peculiar destiny.—"God has given me power and inclination to surmount all obstacles." This is a piece of awful presumption, in the precise style of all the fatalist conqueror from ALEXANDER to ATTILA, to MOHAMMED, to the Indian conquerors, and to CHARLES the Twelfth. It is at once the best and the worst excuse of these mighty, these miserable men.

Our readers will see in the Gazette of last night a most happy account of the proceedings of the naval forces under Lord COCHRANE. What a comparison do not these exploits provoke with our military measures! Not "zeal and firmness;" to be sure: God forbid it should be "zeal and firmness;" but it is the effect of good education, good example, and the want of Court interest: it is resolution, consistency, victory.

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The following NOTE was on Monday issued from Lord CASTLEREAGH's Office, as the substance of dispatches received in the course of the morning from Spain:—

"*Downing-street, Jan. 2. 1809.*

"Letters of the 16th December, dated Toro, have been received from Lieutenant-General Sir JOHN MOORE, who was then forming a junction with Sir DAVID BAIRD, and was marching with the hope of falling in with Marshal SOULT, who had been ordered to make himself master of Leon and Zamora. Brigadier-General CHARLES STEWART, with part of the 18th Light Dragoons, had surprised and taken a detachment of cavalry and infantry at Rueda, with about 20,000l. in value, of cotton, which the French had collected. They had also taken a patrole of an officer and 22 dragoons.

SUICIDE.—Yesterday morning, while Mrs. Segrove was at breakfast at her house in Lambert-place, Mary-le-bone, New Road, she was alarmed by the sudden report of a pistol; and on going into the bed-room of the second floor, she was shocked at beholding a gentleman, who had been only twenty-four hours in the apartments, lying on the floor streaming with blood. He had, it appeared, shot himself with a small pistol, and the ball had gone from the throat through the back part of the head. The deceased had taken the apartments by the name of MANSELL, and he had a servant with him. That however was not his real name, he was a Captain in the army, of good connections, and had not been out of his apartments from the time of entering them.

Mr. SHELLY, whose death we announced in our last, was an excellent miniature painter. His colouring was rich, his effects pleasing, his gradations soft, his finishing delicate. He was often felicitous in fancy subjects decribing Juliets and Musidoras, but in his many attempts at historical miniatures of a more spirited class, he invariably failed.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 38.

The new Comedy of Man and Wife.

DRURY-LANE.

A new comedy called *Man and Wife*, or *More Secrets than One*, was produced on Thursday night, from the pen of Mr. ARNOLD, a gentleman by no means ambitious of reforming the bad taste of the stage. The Daily Papers, with all their good nature, seem to have been at a loss with the plot, which, if it is perfectly intelligible in what it has copied from novels, is not a little unaccountable in what it attempts of originality. The quarrels of *Sir Willoughby Worrett* and his lady, and their attempts to

force their daughter *Helen* into a marriage with *Lord Austencourt*, are all very old and very plain: the family-quarrels of *Lord Austencourt*, and his attempt to impose upon *Miss Falkener*, by what he thought a false marriage, an incident copied from the *Vicar of Wakefield*, are all very old and very plain; but why *Mr. Falkener*, the father, a man, it should seem, of independent feelings, ill-treated by the *Austencourt* family, and in possession of their alarming secrets, should voluntarily bury himself in retirement, and suffer them to enjoy their villainy in public, while the pretended *Lord Austencourt* marries his daughter, is a secret, indeed, which the author has still to explain. Wrong characters naturally produce wrong incidents; for it is the action that shews the error. Thus *Helen Willoughby*, a young lady of family and fortune, who unites, I suppose, the two extremes of hoydenism and dignity, is full of fine feeling against the noble lord who tries to persecute her into marriage, and while she is endeavouring to be sensible and dignified, informs him, in the language of the proverb, "that though he may lead a horse to the stream, he cannot make it drink." Her scene with the nobleman is, indeed, a perfect lesson of bullying. This may be like an ignorant and indulged romp of fashion, it may be like Mrs. JORDAN's fine ladies, and was probably intended to be one of them, but never was there in real life an union of sound sense and feeling with a manifest enjoyment of vulgar abuse. Lord *Austencourt's* character is consistent till the last act, but here the author could not get rid of the worst habits of the stage. GOLDSMITH is very careful how he treats the repentance of *Thornhill*, the prototype of *Austencourt*, and he leaves it more to the imagination than to the instant view of his readers, who may gradate it through all the effects of time and circumstance as they please; but fifth-act repentances are like death-bed repentances, and authors seem to have so true a persuasion of the confinement of the mortal existence of their characters to the stage, that they think sudden reformation as natural at the end of a play as at the end of life. *Austencourt* therefore from a proud, unprincipled, and unfeeling debauchee, suddenly becomes an humble, virtuous, and susceptible husband. I wish the dramatists could transform themselves as rapidly. Of course, a bad play must have an Irishman, or it cannot blunder with any decency; and the author of *Man and Wife* is determined to give us a compound of mistakes in the very person of his Hibernian, who is at once a charitable country justice, a plaintive attorney, a confidant of English noblemen and gentlemen, and a vulgar fellow full of blunders and the brogue, though to reason from his connection he must have passed many years in the midst of good English as well as good manners. The philanthropy of this mass of contradictions gives occasion to the introduction of two or three objects of charity, who have nothing to do with the piece but "to insinuate," as Bayes says," "the plot into the boxes." This is one of the great marks of an incorrect and inefficient dramatist. Characters ought to explain themselves in their intercourse with the necessary personages of the story, but the modern dramatists cannot contrive to keep up the interest of their productions without loading them with these unnecessary appendages to divert or keep alive the attention. All the worst writers of the day are full of these hints towards making a character, these *nota benes* of something to come. The best character in the new comedy is that of *Lady Willoughby*, who rules her husband by means of high spirits and hysterics, for though it is as old as the English st[illegible], yet as her ladyship, in consequence of her husband's su[illegible]n resolutions, alters her mode of ruling for that of mild[illegible]ess, it terminates in a better feeling than most characters of the same kind, and produces the only visible good moral in the piece. There is more nature in her determination to rule *Sir Willoughby* still, than there would have been in a total revolution of her inclinations. The example, at any rate, is more likely to be followed.

The style of the play, which the Papers have so facetiously praised for its elegance, is a combination of all the miserable expedients to which the worst of our dramatists fly for refuge from real wit. We are assaulted with a host of puns, bulls, sea-phrases, quaint repetitions, and praises of King and Constitution. SMITH, as a sailor, who had been taken up for begging, was introduced to work on the feelings of the pathetic lawyer, and accordingly he told a long story about his girl, his grog, and his messmates, to whom he had parted with his last farthing: then the attorney of course, as all attornies would do, makes him a liberal present, the galleries are delighted, and the piece goes on as if it had never been interrupted. MATHEWS is a servant, who had two phrases to repeat throughout the whole piece—"I think," and "if I may be allowed the expression." It is a curious circumstance, which I believe I have remarked before, that MATHEWS has had the misfortune of being the sure representative of these monotonous merrymen. Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. DIBDIN, Mr. CHERRY, &c. &c. and now Mr. ARNOLD, have all made him their parrot in turn, and a most piteous metamorphosis it is. The puns however were not confined to the farcical characters, as they generally have been: even the high-spirited sailor in his senatorial declamation against his noble cousin, could not resist the sportive stupidity, and called the noble lord "a *pier* (peer) but not a *prop*." If this, *cum multis aliis*, is the polished point of which the newspapers speak, it is certainly not the sword of CONGREVE, not the gay arrow of FARQUHAR; if puns are to be called polished points, they are the points that dangle from a footman's shoulder, not marks of the refinement and dignity of the wearer, but ornaments of vulgarity and servility.

The actors have very little to exhibit in a modern piece, unless it is either very dull or exceedingly farcical; and the present drama is neither; it ran easily off upon the lively changes of its scenes, though it had no other merit; and it may rank between the productions of Mr. REYNOLDS and those of Mr. DIBDIN, having neither the complete heyday of the one, nor the mere vulgarity of the other, but possessing, at the same time, enough of the defects of both authors to hinder it from approaching Mr. KENNY or Miss CHAMBERS.

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BRITISH NAVY.—By the NAVAL RETURNS corrected to Jan. 1. there appear to be—AT SEA, 86 sail of the line, 11 from 50 to 44, 128 frigates, and 340 smaller vessels. The TOTAL number of ships, IN COMMISSION, amounts to 149 sail of the line, 21 from 50 to 44, 184 frigates, 186 sloops, and 294 gun-brigs. There are also, IN ORDINARY, and REPAIRING FOR SERVICE, 52 sail of the line, 10 from 50 to 44, 59 frigates, 45 sloops, and 22 gun-brigs, &c. —And there are BUILDING, 50 sail of the line, 20 frigates, 20 sloops, and seven gun-brigs, &c.—Making a GRAND TOTAL of 1120 vessels of war.

FINE ARTS.

BRITISH INSTITUTION.

[illegible]rday, a Committee of the British Institution adjudged the prize of 60L. to each of the following Candidates:—In Poetical Painting, to Mr. G. Daw, for his *Imogen found at the Cave*, from Shakespeare. In Landscape, to Mr. T. Linnel, for his *Landscape with Woodcutters*. In Common Life, to Mr. Sharpe, for his *Music Master*. Remarks on these and other meritorious Prize Paintings, are, from deficiency of room, deferred till our next. Mr. T. Hope, a generous encourager of genius, has given Mr. Sharpe, for the above excellent painting, 100 guineas.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir,—It was with a great deal of pleasure (some time ago) that I read a paragraph in your Paper, declaring your intention to lecture Mr. Soane, if he did not condescend to lecture at the Royal Academy:—I now think you ought to take up your literary cudgel, and thrash all the Professors—for during the whole of last season, not a single lecture was delivered;—and turtle soup, and haunch of venison, promise fair to consume the present. If you will have the goodness to lay about these sons of indolence lustily, you will much oblige your humble servant,

Margaret-street, Jan. 3. A Constant Reader.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir,—I would beg leave to apologise, through the channel of your truth-telling Paper, for the exuberances of Mr. Scriven's zeal in defending chalk-engraving, beyond which, if I should trespass a little, it shall be but little, on your time and attention. I conceive that great allowances should be made for a Gentleman and a Writer in Mr. Scriven's situation. It should be recollected, that his friend, Mr. Boydell, had recently been non-suited: that certain wicked men in long wigs, had, by dint of hard knocking, elicited an unlucky spark or two of truth even from Clay:* and that a certain *cultivator* of engraving, by a truly unfortunate and much-to-be-regretted back stroke, had nearly lopped off Mr. Scriven's *very productive branch* of the art.

A man's mind cannot be very easy under such circumstances. I have no doubt, that at another time Mr. Scriven would have written a better defence of chalk-engraving; but, at present, his prejudices and his interests, and perhaps his passions, are at strife with his reason, and you know very well, Mr. Examiner, that it require better spectacles than those of Mr. Scriven, to see through the dust of such a combat.

Mr. Boydell then must forgive him, if he receives a blow that was meant for a Reviewer, and your readers must forgive him, if they can, if, while he is preaching up "unanimity" and "good-will, (indeed he is no hypocrite) he aims a dagger at the reputation of those whom a common-interest ought rather to incline to aid as brethren."

If these considerations, Mr. Editor, do not plead sufficiently *for the writer and the man*, allow me to add a few others in favour *of the chalk engraver*. Sir, it is no novice—no young Tyro—who now addresses you; I have myself practised the stippling art, and written in its vindication. I will not arrogate to myself the praise of having done either so well as Mr. Scriven; that may be for others to determine—but of chalk engraving, as it is now practised by its superior professors, I have repeatedly spoken and written, as being a beautiful and interesting art, more worthy to be pursued, now that the Boydell's have abandoned it, than when they led the hallelujah of Glory be to thee, O *Dot!*

Yet, notwithstanding this my regard for the chalk engravers' art, if Mr. Scriven would insinuate—he does not speak out, Mr. Editor, and his manner certainly is insinuating—I say, that, notwithstanding my regard for chalk engraving, if Mr. Scriven would *insinuate*, that his friend Boydell ought to lose his suit, because the volumes of his "*National* and *Magnificent* Work" contain *so few* chalk engravings, I cannot agree with him. My complaisance, though it has been exerted toward Mr. Scriven, as a professor of some ability, will not carry me so far.

But when he would argue, that the Court of King's Bench was a very unfit place to enter upon the discussion of the comparative merits of the different modes of engraving, I am happy to say, that I perfectly coincide with Mr. Scriven in opinion. I think it was as unfit a place for such an enquiry, as Alderman Boydell's shopmen were unfit persons of whom to enquire. Yet what does Mr. Scriven hope to gain by transferring an enquiry of this nature from a Court of Law to the columns of a Newspaper?

The Review to which this engraver alludes is evidently the same which you lately, with commendable regard for the arts of your country, recommended as containing grounds of defence against the unprecedented claims of Boydell and Co. on the Subscribers to their Shakespeare. I am afraid, it will cost us here, Mr. Editor, a wider stretch of liberality than falls to the lot of every man, to shelter Mr. Scriven from the reproach of insidiousness on the one hand; and, on the other, from the disgrace of weakening Mr. Boydell's cause by the feebleness of his attempts to defend it. The Proprietors of the Shakespear dread the Review of Art; and, in all probability, will hurry on another trial as fast as they can, on purpose to avoid the effects of a continuance of its strictures; but let not the public attention be diverted from the fundamental principle on which the real merits of the question between Boydell and his Subscribers must rest, by any declamation about "silent tomb," "Michel Angelo," and "not raising the dead," of such writers as Mr. Scriven. He knows, that Mr. Boydell might easily be forgiven for not *raising* the *dead*, if he had not *lowered* the *living*.

But, Sir, unless I am much mistaken, neither an inadvertent anachronism in a Review; nor a sneaking jackall who would feed on it after his master has done, nor him who has made engraving his constant prey, shall escape with impunity. Taste has been gaining ground, and will gain ground, in spite of all Mr. Boydell's "*Suggestions*," and the odium of posterity awaits him, even though it should not be anticipated by an English Jury.

Does Mr. Scriven know the rotten foundation on which he would seduce the public to build? or why does he not speak out? The plain truth, when told in a plain manner, is, that the Reviewer of Boydell's Shakespear had supposed the Prospectus for that work to have been dated before the deaths of Ryland and Woollett; whereas, now it is produced, it appears not to be dated till some months after the decease of the latter, and therefore their names should not have been mentioned among those of the engravers of talent whom the Boydells ought to have employed on their Shakespear.

As the Reviewer of Art (or, at least, the Editor of that Work), advertised for the loan of Boydell's Prospectus, it is evident to me, that he had it not before him, and consequently that *his* mistake is *not* wilful: but what shall we say to Mr. Scriven, who, whilst staining your Paper with his affected pomp, knew very well, that if the names of *Holloway* and *Sherwin*, who *were* living at the time, were to be substituted in the Review for those of Ryland and Woollett, and if the names of *Copley*, *Lawrence*, and *Davis*, were to be added to those of the painters who were not employed on the Shakespear, both the letter and spirit of that publication would be still stronger against the proceedings of his friend Mr. Alderman Boydell. If not to have employed Woollett and Ryland, be of the importance to Mr. Boydell's defence, that his special pleader would insinuate, of how much importance must it be to his

* Which may, indeed, throw some light upon what some mineralogists have boldly affirmed: namely, that clay and *flint* are no other than modifications of the same substance.

Subscribers, that he has not employed Loutherbourg, Copley, Lawrence, Devis, Sir Robert Strange, Heath, Holloway, Hall, Sherwin, Byrne, Pouncy, Emes?

One thing, at least, the sensible part of Mr. Scriven's friends will be sorry to observe; namely, that he would make a merit of not being ashamed of what he has written. If want of shame in a writer ever implies want of sense, it must be where his readers are left in doubt, whether his mind be afflicted by the malady of gross falsehood or egregious inadvertency. If he wishes to be acquainted with *my* name, he may learn it at your Office. Meanwhile, I beg to subscribe myself, Sir, YOUR CONSTANT READER.

COURT AND FASHIONABLES.

Yesterday week, about eight o'clock in the morning, the Duke of York left town for Windsor. His Royal Highness took with him the voluminous Proceedings and Report of the Court of Enquiry, upon the Convention of Cintra. It was so extremely large that it was made into two parcels, each of them weighing nearly twenty pounds. His Royal Highness arrived at Windsor soon after ten o'clock, and in a short time after had an interview with his Majesty, and laid the Proceedings and Report before him. His Royal Highness proceeded to read them, and continued to do so during the whole of the day. His Majesty informed the Duke he should consider the business till Sunday, and desired his Royal Highness to attend him on that day, it being his Royal Highness's intention to go to Oatlands that night. The Queen desired him to bring the Duchess with him. On Sunday morning their Royal Highnesses arrived at Windsor from Oatlands. At four o'clock the Royal Family sat down to dinner, and his Majesty, in compliment to the Duchess of York, sat at table the whole time, although he had previously dined about one o'clock; his Majesty partook of the confectionary, desert, and wine, and appeared in most excellent health and spirits. There were present, besides their Majesties, the Duke and Duchess of York, and five Princesses, the Dukes of Cumberland and Cambridge. In the evening the Royal Family partook of tea and coffee, during which time her Majesty's band played several pieces of sacred music from the works of Handel. Soon after nine o'clock, the Duke and Duchess of York left Windsor; his Royal Highness for London, where he arrived about twelve o'clock. Her Royal Highness the Duchess went to Oatlands. It is understood that his Majesty communicated to the Duke of York his Royal sentiments upon the proceedings of the Court of Enquiry upon the Convention of Cintra, before he left Windsor on Sunday, which were, that no further proceedings were necessary.

On Wednesday, about one o'clock, his Majesty arrived at the Queen's Palace, from Windsor. His Majesty was nearly an hour longer on the road than usual. Soon after two o'clock, his Majesty held a private Levee, when the following persons had the honour of being presented:—

Lord Amherst, on being appointed his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of his Sicilian Majesty.

The Rev. Mr. Hanchett Grey, on being appointed a Prebend of Durham.

Major-General Dyott, on his going to join the army in Spain.

The Rev. Mr. Lee, Chaplain in Ordinary to the Prince of Wales, on his return from Spain.

General Campbell, on his going to Spain.

Mr. Henry Bentinck, on being appointed Governor of Demarara and Essequibo.

Lieut.-Col. Braddyll, of the Coldstream Regiment of Guards, on his promotion.

Lieut.-Colonel Lloyd of the 84th Regiment, on his promotion and return from his command at Goree.

His Majesty held a Privy Council, and gave private audiences to the Duke of Portland, the Lord Chancellor, and the other Cabinet Ministers present. About six o'clock his Majesty set off on his return to Windsor.

FASHIONS FOR JANUARY.

The present determined severity of the weather will forcibly appeal to the senses, and lead those females (who would preserve that health without which there is no beauty) to shelter themselves from the piercing attacks of the cold by a judicious adoption of the bosom friend. This article does not now, as formerly, consist of an insignificant piece of fur, just fitted to the chest; but in conformity to that enlarged sense, which its comprehensive name implies, affords a more extensive protection in the sensible under wrap of fleecy hosiery, or lamb's wool, in the Russian pelisse, of purple or crimson velvet, lined with the softest skin; in long Grecian mantles wadded and lined with silk, and trimmed with spotted ermine, or other rich fur; in the closely folded spenser, with Spanish mantle of fine Vigonia cloth; in the satin scarf trimmed with swansdown; and in the cassimere shawl and cravat, which is gracefully disposed, so as to shelter the form from the partial air to which it is exposed in public places and parties.

The scarlet cardinal, which is now so general as to tire the eye with its invariable glare, continues, nevertheless, to be adopted by very genteel women on the above-mentioned occasions, and certainly forms a very sensible wrap for the theatres, as well as for the morning walk through the grounds, at the seats and villas in the country. White satin scarfs with borders of the Egyptian satins, in crimson cloth, velvet, or chenille, are very elegant and tasteful ornaments for full dress; as are also dresses in this style with lace long sleeves, rucked full on the arm, and finished with an antique-cuff in Vandyke. Black velvet robes with embroidered gold stomachers, or trimmed with Vandyke lace; scarlet bombazeen, or crimson cloth, or muslin, with white or coloured satin waists, laced in front, cut low on the bosom, and finished with a plaiting of Frech net, a tucker of folded net, short Opera-tippet of swansdown, and Foundling mob cap, formed entirely of lace; a pleating of net round the face, and finished behind and in front with rosets of narrow ribband; the hair in full curls in front, and formed as a crop behind, are habits of fashionable celebrity.—Cropt hair is becoming indiscriminately general; some of our fair fashionables have, however, lately introduced the hind hair in long ringlets on the back and shoulders; which fashion, if universal, will entirely exclude the Queen's Elizabeth's ruff, now becoming general.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF INQUIRY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

WE the underwritten General Officers of the Army, in obedience to your Majesty's warrant, which bears date the 1st day of November, 1808, commanding us strictly to enquire into the conditions of a *suspension of arms*, concluded on the 22d of August, 1808, between your Majesty's Army in Portugal, and the French force in that country—and also into a definitive *Convention*, concluded with the French General commanding on the 31st August following—also into all the causes and circumstances (whether arising from the previous operations of the British Army, or otherwise, which led to them)—and into the conduct, behaviour, and proceedings of Lieutenant-General Sir Hew Dalrymple, and such other Commander or Commanders of your Majesty's forces in Portugal—and of any other person or persons, as far as the same were connected with the said Armistice, Suspension of Arms, and Convention—and to report to your Majesty a statement thereof

as it shall appear, together with our opinion thereon, and also our opinion, whether any, and what further proceedings should be had thereupon:

We have, at several meetings, perused and considered your Majesty's orders and instructions as transmitted to us by the Right Hon. Lord Castlereagh, your Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, together with sundry letters, and other papers, therewith transmitted:—And have heard and examined Lieutenant-General Sir Hew Dalrymple, Sir Harry Burrard, and Sir Arthur Wellesley, and other principal Officers employed on the said Expedition, with such witnesses as any of them desired:—And also such other persons as seemed to us most likely to give any material information.—And in order that your Majesty may be fully possessed of every circumstance which has appeared in the course of this Enquiry, we beg leave to lay before your Majesty the whole of our Examinations and Proceedings to this our Report annexed.—And upon the most diligent and careful review of the whole matter, we do, in further obedience to your Royal Command, most humbly report to your Majesty, that it appears, &c. &c.

[Here follows a statement of facts relative to the arrival in Portugal of Sir Arthur Wellesley's expedition from Cork—to the appearance of General Spencer off the Tagus, his return to Cadiz, and his arrival again in Portugal—to the operations of the army up to the battles of the 17th and 21st—to the junction of General Auckland and General Anstruther's brigades—to the arrival of Sir Harry Burrard and Sir Hew Dalrymple—to the arrival and landing of Sir John Moore; all of which have already been given in the official dispatches published in the Gazette, in the narratives of Sir A. Wellesley, Sir H. Burrard, and Sir Hew Dalrymple, and in the evidence which we fully detailed during the sitting of the Board of Enquiry.]

After a description of the battle of Vimeira, the report proceeds thus:—

Soon after twelve, the firing had ceased, and the enemy's cavalry were seen from our left, in bodies of about 200, by General Ferguson; and about the same time General Spencer saw a line formed, about three miles in front of our centre. About half past twelve, Sir Arthur Wellesley proposed to Sir Harry Burrard to advance from his right, with three brigades, upon Torres Vedras, and with the other five brigades to follow the enemy, who had been defeated by our left.

It appears that the situation of the army at this moment was—on the right, Major-General Hill's brigade, which had not been engaged, was on the height behind Vimeira, and at a distance of above three miles from those of Generals Ferguson and Nightingale on the left. In front of Vimeira, and in the centre, were the brigades of Anstruther and Fane, which had been warmly engaged. Brigadier-General Bowes's and Acklaud's brigades were advanced on the heights, towards the left, in support of Generals Ferguson and Nightingale. Brigadier-General Craufurd's brigade was detached rather to the rear of the left, about half a mile from Major-General Ferguson, to support the Portuguese troops, making front in that direction. It appears, that although the enemy was completely repulsed, the degree of expedition with which a pursuit could be commenced, considering the extended position of the army at that time, and the precaution to be taken against the superior cavalry of the enemy, must have depended on various local circumstances only to be calculated by those on the spot.

This very circumstance of a superior cavalry retarding our advance, would allow the enemy's infantry, without any degree of risk, to continue their retreat in the most rapid manner, till they should arrive at any given and advantageous point of rallying and formation; nor did Sir A. Wellesley, on the 17th August, when the enemy had not half the cavalry as on the 21st, pursue a more inconsiderable and beaten army with any marked advantage. (Here passages are quoted from Sir A. Wellesley's dispatches in the Gazette, in support of this statement.) It may also be considered, that as the attack on our centre had been repulsed long before that on our left had, the attacking corps, which, as has been observed, was not pursued (but by the 20th dragoons, not exceeding 150), had time (above an hour) to reassemble, and to occupy such ground as might afterwards facilitate the retreat of their right, and that the enemy were actually and visibly formed in one or more lines, at about three miles in front of the centre.

From these and other fair military grounds, as allowed by Sir A. Wellesley; from those that occurred in Sir H. Burrard's first interview with Sir A. Wellesley; from the utmost certainly of the immediate arrival of Sir John Moore's corps, which, if they had not stopped at Mondego Bay, would have been at Maceira on the 21st; Sir H. Burrard declined making any further pursuit that day, or ordering the army to march next morning early.—[In this opinion Sir H. Burrard states, Brigadier-General Clinton and Colonel Murray concurred.]

[Here follows an account of the appointment of Sir Hew Dalrymple; his assuming the command; the negociation of the armistice; objections of Sir Cotton, and final conclusion of the armistice; all the particulars of which we have already laid before the Public.]

It appears that when the proposed treaty (ratified by General Junot) of the 28th August, was brought by Captain Dalrymple on the 29th to head quarters at Ramalhal, all the Lieutenant-Generals (Burrard, Moore, Hope, Fraser, Wellesley) were present, Lord Paget excepted (because not long previously summoned). The proposed treaty was, however, formally discussed. Minutes of proposed alterations were taken by Sir A. Wellesley, as laid before the Board, and the Commander of the Forces has no reason to believe that Sir J. Moore, or any of the Lieutenant-Generals that came with him, expressed any disapprobation of the state and terms of the negociation.

The treaty with the alterations proposed were re-transmitted to Lieutenant-Colonel Murray. It appears, when the treaty concluded by Lieutenant-Colonel Murray on the 30th, was brought by him to Torres Vedras on the 31st for ratification, the Lieutenant-Generals present were convened, and Sir A. Wellesley was sent for. Lord Paget, who was at a distance, did not come, nor did Sir A. Wellesley, his corps having marched that morning. The other Lieutenant-Generals met, (Burrard, Moore, Fraser, Hope) the alterations made by Lieutenant-Colonel Murray were approved, and the treaty then ratified by the Commander of the Force, (Sir H. Dalrymple) with the approbation of the Lieutenant-Generals present. Some of the articles of the treaty of the 28th, before objected to by the Lieutenant-Generals, were altered in that of the 30th, and some other good alterations had been inserted, not before suggested. A comparison of the treaty of the 28th, and that ratified, will shew the alterations. The meetings of the Lieutenant-Generals, the Commander of the Forces did not call or consider as regular councils of war. He sought to benefit from their talents and experience, by consulting them on exigent cases, and by pursuing the measure he might himself deem most for the good of your Majesty's service, after availing himself of the advantage he might draw from their reasonings, and he does not recollect there was any dissentient opinion on the 31st, as to the ratification of the Convention. It appears that Sir J. Moore's corps having arrived at Mondego Bay on the 20th of August, began to disembark; that they re-embarked, and arrived off Maceira Bay on the 24th; that from the 25th to the 29th, they landed under considerable difficulties, and successively joined the army at Torres Vedras. It appears that some of the principal advantages to arise from the Convention were in the contemplation of the Generals:—That it immediately liberated the kingdom of Portugal from the dominion of the French, thereby restoring to the inhabitants their capital and fortresses, their principal sea-ports, their personal liberty, property, religion, and established government. That it relieved a great extent of Spanish frontier from all apprehensions of an enemy, and the whole of Spain from that of having an enemy behind them, and allowed all parts of Spain to take more effective measures for its general defence; as well as permitted Portugal immediately to contribute for their mutual support. That it enabled the British army immediately to enter Spain, if required, by central routes, while it transported the French force to a very distant

part of their own coast, far removed from the Spanish frontier. That it immediately released 4,000 Spanish soldiers, and sent them to the defence of Catalonia; it also released from the Portuguese frontier another body of 2,000 Spanish troops. The Portuguese army also became disposable for the common cause. To the men of war and transports, which at this season of the year with great difficulty could keep their station near the coast, and on whose presence the supplies and operations of the army depended, the opening of the Tagus afforded immediate shelter. It is further urged by the Generals, as much more than probable, that if the enemy had been required to lay down their arms, and surrender prisoners of war, they would not have complied; but if driven to extremity, that they would have retired upon Lisbon, reinforced by 6,000 Russians, who must have been thus compelled to share their fate; and in the temporary attack of this city, much calamity and destruction must have ensued. Also, that masters of the Russian fleet, and of boats and shipping in the Tagus, the passage to the river was ensured to them; that they could have defended, for a considerable time, its East Bank, and prevented the occupation of the Tagus by our fleet; that, with the strong fortresses of Alentejo in their possession, they could have protracted a destructive war, to the great detriment of Portugal and the Spanish cause, by finding employment for the greater part of the British army for the remainder of the year, and whose difficulties and losses in such operation must have been very considerable. It appears, that the forts on the Tagus were taken possession of on the 2d of September, by the British troops, and the port was then opened to our shipping. That on the 5th, the army had its right at St. Juliens, and its left on the heights of Bellas: That on the 8th or 9th, a British corps marched into Lisbon, to ensure the tranquillity of that city, during the embarkation of the enemy, who were all sent off (except the last division, purposely detained) before the end of the month, and part of the British army was then actually on its route towards the Spanish frontier. It appears, that during the discussion, and afterwards during the execution of the Convention, much firmness was shewn in resisting the pretensions and interpretations of the enemy; every stipulation being restricted to its fair, honourable, and grammatical meaning, and the French not allowed to carry off, but obliged to disgorge plunder, which they effected to consider as private property. It appears, that pains were taken to misrepresent and raise a clamour in Portugal against this convention; but when it was generally known, and its effects felt, the people of Lisbon, and of the country, seem to have expressed their gratitude and thanks for the benefits attending it. It has been urged by Sir Hew Dalrymple, and allowed by Major-General Spencer, that in Egypt, in 1801, (after the victory of the 21st of March, the French having thrown their whole force into Alexandria and Grand Cairo, about 10,000 men in each place) that at the siege of Alexandria, in August, the Country was in the full possession of the British and Turks. The garrison, cut off from every possibility of relief, and could only have held out some days, when a capitulation was granted to it, September the 2d, as favourable as the Convention of Cintra to the army of Junot (of 24,000 French, and 6,000 Russians), and perfectly similar in all the chief articles of men, baggage, artillery, conveyance, &c. also, that the same terms had been previously granted to the garrison of Cairo, under much the same circumstances. By these two Conventions, or Capitulations, above 20,000 French evacuated Egypt, and the British army was left disposable for other purposes. On the whole it appears, that the operations of the army under Sir Arthur Wellesley, from his landing in Mondego Bay the 1st of August, until the conclusion of the action at Vimeira, the 21st of August, were highly honourable and successful, and such as might be expected from a distinguished General, at the head of a British army of 13,000 men, augmented on the 20th and 21st to 17,000, deriving only some small aid from a Portuguese corps (1600 men) and against whom an enemy not exceeding 14,000 men in the field was opposed; and this before the arrival of a very considerable reinforcement from England, under Lieutenant-General Sir John Moore, which, however, did arrive and join the army, from the 25th to the 30th of August. It appears a point on which no evidence adduced can enable the Board to pronounce, with confidence, whether or not a pursuit after the battle of the 21st, could have been efficacious; nor can the Board feel confident to determine on the expedience of a forward movement to Torres Vedras, when Sir H. Burrard has stated weighty considerations against such a measure. Further, it is to be observed, that so many collateral circumstances could not be known in the moment of the enemy's repulse, as afterwards became clear to the army, and have been represented to the Board. And considering the extraordinary circumstances under which two new Commanding Generals arrived from the ocean, and joined the army (the one during, and the other immediately after, a battle, and those successively superseding each other, and both the original Commander within the space of 24 hours), it is not surprising that the army was not carried forward, until the second day after the action, from the necessity of the Generals being acquainted with the actual state of things, and of their army, and proceedings accordingly.

It appears that the Convention of Cintra, in all its progress and conclusion, or at least all the principal articles of it, were not objected to by the five distinguished Lieutenant-Generals of that army; and other General Officers who were on that service, whom we have had an opportunity to examine, have also concurred in the great advantages that were immediately gained, to the country of Portugal, to the army and navy, and to the general service, by the conclusion of the Convention at that time.—On a consideration of all circumstances, as set forth in this Report, we most humbly submit our opinion, that no further military proceeding is necessary on the subject. Because, howsoever some of us may differ in our sentiments respecting the fitness of the Convention in the relative situation of the two armies, it is our unanimous declaration, that unquestionable zeal and firmness appear throughout to have been exhibited by Lieutenants-Generals Sir H. Dalrymple, Sir H. Burrard, and Sir A. Wellesley, as well as that the ardour and gallantry of the rest of the officers and soldiers, on every occasion during this expedition, have done honour to the troops, and reflected lustre on your Majesty's arms. All which is most dutifully submitted.

(Signed) DAVID DUNDAS, General.
MOIRA, General.
PETER CRAIG, General.
HEATHFIELD, General.
PEMBROKE, Lieut.-Gen.
G. NUGENT, Lieut.-Gen.
22 *Dec.* 1808. OL. NICOLLS, Lieut.-Gen.

Judge Advocate General's Office, Dec. 27, 1808.

In consequence of the following letter from his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief to General Sir David Dundas, as President, viz.

Horse Guards, Dec. 25, 1808.

SIR—The Judge-Advocate-General having delivered to me, to be laid before his Majesty, the several papers and documents, containing all the examinations and proceedings taken before the Board of Enquiry, of which you are the President, together with your report and opinion upon the whole of the late operations of his Majesty's forces in Portugal, as connected with the Armistice and subsequent Convention of Cintra, I think it incumbent on me to state to you, that although the Report is fully detailed, and perfectly explanatory of all the transactions as they appeared in evidence before you; yet upon a due consideration of the whole matter, it certainly appears that your opinion upon the conditions of the Armistice and Convention, which the words of his Majesty's Warrant expressly enjoin should be strictly examined, enquired into, and reported upon, has been altogether omitted, I feel it my duty, therefore, to call your attention to these two principal features of this important case, the Armistice and Convention, and to desire that you may be pleased to take the same into your most serious consideration, and subjoin to the opinion which you have already given upon the other points submitted to your examination and

enquiry, whether, under all the circumstances which appear in evidence before you, on the relative situation of the two armies, on the 22d of August, 1808, it is your opinion that an Armistice was advisable, and if so, whether the terms of that Armistice were such as ought to have been agreed upon; and whether upon a like consideration of the relative situation of the two armies subsequent to the Armistice, and when all the British forces were landed, it is your opinion that a Convention was advisable, and if so, whether the terms of that Convention were such as ought to have been agreed upon.—I am the more desirous that you should resume the consideration of these two points, the Armistice and Convention, as it appears upon the face of your Report, that a difference of opinion exists among the Members of the Board, which may probably produce a dissent from the majority upon these very questions. You will be pleased therefore, to desire such of the Members as may be of a different opinion from the majority upon these two questions, to record upon the face of these proceedings their reasons for such dissent. I am, Sir, yours,

(Signed) FREDERICK,
Gen. Sir D. Dundas, K. B. Commander in Chief.

The Board met this day at the Judge-Advocate-General's Office, when the said letter having been read, they agreed that the following questions should be put to each of the Members of the Board:—

Do you, or do you not approve of the Armistice as concluded on the 22d August, 1808, in the relative situation of the two armies?

Approve.—Lieut.-Gen. Nichols, Lieut.-Gen. Sir G. Nugent, Lieut.-Gen. Earl Pembroke, General Lord Heathfield, Gen. Craig, General Sir D. Dundas

Disapprove.—Earl Moira.

Do you, or do you not approve of the Convention as concluded upon the 31st of August, 1808, in the relative situation of the two Armies?

Approve.—Lieutenant-General Sir G. Nugent, General Lord Heathfield, General Craig, General Sir D. Dundas.

Disapprove.—Lieut.-General Nicholls, Earl of Pembroke, Earl Moira.

(Signed) DAVID DUNDAS, President.

My reason for considering the Armistice as adviseable on the 22d of August was, because the enemy had been able to retire after the battle of the 21st, and take up a strong defensive position. CL. NICOLLS, L. G.

I think, considering the great increase of our force from the first suspension of hostility to the definitive signing of the Convention, added to the defeat the enemy had suffered, Sir Hew. Dalrymple was fully entitled to have insisted upon more favourable terms. CL. NICOLLS, L. G.

I approve of the Armistice, after a due consideration of the relative situations of the two armies on the evening of the 22d of August; but I cannot fully approve of the whole of the Convention, after a due consideration of the relative situation of the two armies at that time: because it does not appear to me that, in the progress of the negociation, sufficient stress was laid upon the great advantages which had resulted, or were likely to result, from the former successful operations of the British army in the field—from the considerable reinforcements which had joined it subsequent to the commencement of the negociation—from the cause in which the British army was engaged being the cause of Portugal, which gave good reason to reckon upon the good will, if not upon the active assistance, of the majority of the inhabitants; and also, from the unusual readiness which, as it appears to me, was manifested by Gen. Junot to enter into negociation, and by the French negociator to accede to terms as they were proposed, and to such construction as Lieut. Gen. Sir Hew Dalrymple put upon them in some instances, where they might have borne a difference of interpretation. I therefore think it probable, for the above reasons, that if less favourable terms to the French army had been insisted upon, they would have been acceded to. PEMBROKE, Lieut. Gen.

I feel less awkward in obeying the orders to detail my sentiments on the nature of the Convention, because that I have already joined in the tribute of applause due in other respects to the Officers concerned. My opinion, therefore, is only opposed to theirs on a question of judgment, where their talents are likely to have so much more weight, as to render the profession of my difference, even on that point, somewhat painful. The duty is, however, imperious on me not to disguise or qualify the deductions which I have made during this investigation.—An Armistice simply might not have been objectionable, because Sir H. Dalrymple, expecting hourly the arrival of Sir John Moore's division, might see more advantage for himself in a short suspension of hostilities, and what the French could draw from it; but as the Armistice involved, and in fact established the whole principle of the Convention, I cannot separate it from the latter. Sir A. Wellesley has stated, that he considered his force, at the commencement of the march from the Mondego River, as sufficient to drive the French from their positions on the Tagus. That force is subsequently joined by above 4000 British troops, under Generals Anstruther and Ackland. The French make an attack with their whole disposable strength, and are repulsed with heavy loss, though but a part of the British army is brought into action. It is difficult to conceive that the prospects which Sir A. Wellesley entertained could be unfavourably altered by these events, even had not the certainty of speedy reinforcements to the British army existed. It is urged, that had the French been pushed to extremity, they would have crossed the Tagus, and have protracted the campaign in such a manner as to have frustrated the more important view of the British Generals—namely, sending succours into Spain. This measure must have been equally feasible for the French if no victory had been obtained over them; but I confess that the chance of such an attempt seems to me assumed against probability. Sir H. Dalrymple notices what he calls "the critical and embarrassed state of Junot," before that General had been pressed by the British army: and in explanation of that expression, he observes, that the surrender of Dupont, the existence of the victorious Spanish army in Andalusia, which cut off the retreat of the French in that direction, and the universal hostility of the Portuguese, made the situation of Junot one of great distress. No temptation for the translation of the war into Alentejo presents itself from this picture; nor does any other representation give ground to suppose that Junot could have contemplated the measure as holding forth any prospect but ultimate ruin, after much preliminary distress and disgrace. The strongest of all proofs as to Junot's opinion, arises from his sending the very morning after the battle of Vimeira, to propose the evacuation of Portugal; a step which sufficiently indicated that he was satisfied that he could not only make no effectual defence, but could not even prolong the contest to take the chance of accidents. He seems, indeed, to have been without any real resource. It appears in evidence, that of the troops left by him in Lisbon and the forts, a considerable proportion was of a very doubtful quality. Those troops on whose fidelity he could confide, had been dismayed by a signal defeat, and they were sensible that they had no succour to look to from abroad. To the British Generals it was known, when the Armistice was granted, that 10,000 men under Sir J. Moore, as well as the 3d and 42d regiments of foot, with the 18th dragoons, might be immediately reckoned upon; and although much advantage had not been drawn from the Portuguese troops, their support and the general violence of the country against the French, cannot be laid out of this calculation.

The disparity of force and of circumstances was, then, such as could leave no doubt that the issue must be favourable to us. I do not omit adverteuce to the difficulties urged as possible to occur in furnishing the British army with bread. But putting aside the obvious solution, that such a temporary privation is not ruinous to an army where cattle can be procured in the country, this difficulty cannot be well pleaded, if admission is to be given to the speculation, that the heavy cannon necessary for battering forts St. Julien and Caseaes were to be got ashore in the Bays of the Rock of Lisbon. The question then comes to this:—whether the Convention did (as has been asserted) secure all the objects which were proposed in the Expedition. If it did not, it was not what his Majesty was entitled to expect from the relative situation of the two armies.

I humbly conceive it to have been erroneous to regard the emancipation of Portugal from the French, as the sole or the principal object of the expedition. Upon whatever territory we contend with the French, it must be a prominent object in the struggle to destroy their resources, and to narrow their means of injuring us, or those whose cause we are supporting. This seems to have been so little considered in the Convention, that the terms appear to have extricated Junot's army from a situation of infinite distress, in which it was wholly out of play, and to have brought it, in a state of entire equipment, into immediate currency, in a quarter too where it must interfere with our most urgent and interesting concerns.

Had it been impracticable to reduce the French army to lay down its arms unconditionally, still an obligation not to serve for a specified time, might have been insisted upon, or Belleisle might have been prescribed as the place at which they should be landed, in order to prevent the probability of their reinforcing (at least for a long time) the armies employed for the subjugation of Spain. Perhaps a stronger consideration than the merit of those terms present itself. Opinion relative to the British arms was of the highest importance, as it might influence the confidence of the Spaniards, or invite the nations groaning under the yoke of France, to appeal to this Country, and co-operate with it for their deliverance. The advantages ought therefore, to have been more than usually great, which should be deemed sufficient to balance the objection of granting to a very inferior army, hopeless in circumstances, and broken in spirit, such terms as might argue, that notwithstanding its disparity in numbers, it was still formidable to its victors. No advantages seemed to have been gained that would not have equally followed from forcing the enemy to a more marked submission. The gain of time as to sending succours into Spain cannot be admitted as a plea, because it appears that no arrangements for the reception of our troops in Spain had been undertaken previous to the Convention; and this is without reasoning on subsequent facts. The Convention in Eygpt, which has been advanced as a parallel case, appears to me inapplicable. No object beyond the dislodgement of the French from Egypt was there in question. In the present instance, the operation of the Convention upon the affairs of Spain was a consideration of primary interest; and in that view the inevitable effect of some of the articles offers itself to my mind as liable to material objection. I trust that these reasons will vindicate me from the charge of presumption, in maintaining an opinion contradictory to that professed by so many most respectable officers; for, even if the reasons be essentially erroneous, if they are conclusive to my mind (as I must conscientiously affirm them to be), it is a necessary consequence that I must disapprove the Convention.

MOIRA, General.

December 27, 1808.

STATEMENT of the FRENCH ARMIES in SPAIN.

(FROM THE MORNING CHRONICLE.)

It has been said that the numbers of the French in Spain have been exaggerated, and that they are by no means in the force which we yesterday stated. We shall most truly rejoice to have it ascertained that our information is untrue; but we have taken pains to verify the account.

	Men.
According to our information there were in the Western Pyrenees, at the time that JOSEPH the Usurper retreated from Madrid	42,000
There were in the Eastern Pyrenees, that in Figueras, Belgarde, Montjuic, &c. &c. about	15,000
There marched through Paris from Germany between the 15th and 30th September, the *Corps* of NEY and VICTOR	46,000
There passed through Dijon at the same time, the *Corps* of LEFEBVRE	23,000
About the middle of October there arrived at Bayonne, from Italy, the *Division* of SEBASTIANI	9,600
There had also arrived a body of Dutch troops	6,000
BONAPARTE brought with him a part of his Imperial Guard, estimated at	8,000
The late Bulletins have announced the arrival in Catalonia of ST. CYR's Corps, from Italy, together with some regiments of the Confederation of the Rhine, estimated together at	30,000
To which are to be added the 5th and 8th Corps, (those of SOULT and MORTIER), which are announced to have passed the Bidassoa	46,000
And the remains of JUNOT's army, which by our account was 15,000 men, but it is stated in the Spanish Papers at only	8,000
In all	233,600

The greatest part of this force BONAPARTE has marched from 1000 to 1400 miles distance, with the perfect knowledge of our Government, but without an attempt on their part to be before him in the field.

It is impossible for us, however, to state how many thousands BONAPARTE may have lost in his various battles, as well as by fatigue and disease; we know that these round numbers do not correctly tally with the reports that have been made by the active and vigilant PALAFOX (on the authority of his agents,) to the Supreme Junta; but they come near them. By his returns 70,000 men had passed the Bidassoa before the end of the first week in December. Add to these the force originally in Spain, as above stated, and the corps of SOULT, MORTIER, ST. CYR, and JUNOT since arrived, and the number will be found little short of our statement.

The manner in which the EMPEROR of the French composes his armies, and still more the manner in which he provides for their subsistence, excite the public attention, from the efficiency and order which appear to reign in every department of his service. It is certainly a subject of real importance, and we should be happy if any well-informed Correspondent could enable us to satisfy the curiosity of our readers on this topic.

In the meantime we will shortly state what we have been able to collect.

Of all things, his Commissariat he regards as the most important. Our readers will observe, that of all his Princes, Dukes, and Peers, the man upon whom he has conferred the most splendid estate is BERTHIER, whom he has created Prince of Neufchatel. To him, more than to any one of his Marshals, he owes the career of his victories—for to him is owing the arrangement and distribution of the stores and provisions, without which no gallantry and no skill can be effective. The details of this department (that of the Quarter-Master-General) are reduced to a simplicity which deserves imitation. The wonders it has produced have been displayed in every country which NAPOLEON has over-run—for every where have his troops been well supplied—and by the same means. He has never trusted for a supply of *bread*, for instance, to the scene of action. That is carried with him, and it is prepared in a way which preserves it from the changes incident to that which is composed originally of base material, or which, for the profit of the Commissary, is but half baked in the camp. He has no rival candidates for the supply of provisions and stores—no advertizing for ten thousand pairs of shoes or blankets this day, and ten thousand tomorrow—no tenders are called for, concealing the quantity of the material wanted; by which rival contractors are set to work to buy up against one another, and thereby enhance the prices in the market. No publication is made

of the necessities of his Government; but for every individual article he has but one single buyer, or furnisher; and he is under a real responsibility, because the slightest detection of fraud subjects him to a Court Martial, whose sentence is instantaneous and irrevocable. The whole process of their supply is therefore carried on with an inspection the most vigorous; and the resources of chemistry are brought in aid of the service. Whatever shall best tend to sustain life with the easiest carriage—the least susceptible of changes by heat or moisture—the soonest prepared—and the least likely to disorder the stomach—it is the business of the scientific part of the Commissariat to provide, both for man and horse.

Accordingly, for six months before the arrival of the French armies in Spain, a requisition of Bakers was made at Bayonne to bake *biscuits*, because they may be kept for a length of time; and the fortress of Pampeluna is his general *depot* for them and other stores. Even for the horse, the barley meal, husk and all, are ground down and baked in the form of a coarse cake, to prevent fermentation; and this, by being steeped, not only corrects the water which the horse drinks, but by habit the animal eats it in the field. The biscuits for the men, in the same manner, boiled up with portable soup, give nourishment to the soldier, at the same time that the food is light, easy of digestion, and does not subject him to dysentery. It would be truly desirable to have the French mode of supplying their armies clearly explained.

As to the construction of their armies, it is altogether on the model of the Roman Legions.

We often see the words *corps* and *divisions* mentioned in the French bulletins, and often in the English translation, we confound these terms. It is essential to mark the difference.

A *corps* is a complete army, under the command of a *Marshal*. It consists of *two divisions* of infantry, and *one division* of cavalry, besides its proportion of artillery, engineers, miners, guides, and commissariat, and is composed as follows:—

Two divisions of infantry, each commanded by a General of Division, equal in rank to our Lieutenant-General.

Each division consists of two brigades, each under the command of a General of Brigade, equal in rank to our Major-General.

Each brigade of two regiments.

Each regiment of three battalions.

Each battalion of nine companies.

Each company of 117 men.

But in time of war the grenadiers are detached and formed into separate battalions; so that each battalion has eight companies, and taking off the odd 17 men per company, each battalion on an average has 800 men; so that each regiment of infantry is 2400 strong.

A division of cavalry consists of two brigades.

Each brigade of two regiments.

Each regiment of 1,000 men, but on an average they are not more than 800.

So that in each division of infantry there are 9600.

In each division of cavalry 3200.

And to form a corps there are,

Two divisions of Infantry - -	19,200
One Ditto Cavalry - -	3,200
Artillery, pioneers, guides, &c. say	600
In all about - -	23,000 men

But they necessarily vary according to circumstances from 20 to 25,000 men.

A Corps therefore, under the chief command of a *Marshal*, is an army, with three Generals of Division, and six Generals of Brigade under him. It is certain, however, that Bonaparte does not always adhere to his rule. The Dukes Marshals do not always accompany their own *corps*. Thus Soult was hurried in Spain, because his great talents were thought indispensible, although his Corps is one of the two which the last Bulletins state have just passed the Bidassoa. Bonaparte also detaches divisions of cavalry, and even constitutes a corps of cavalry, as his best manœuvre is rapidity of action.

If our readers, however, will attend to this construction of his force, they will be able to estimate the amount of the French Army in Spain.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

Two men of the names of Hankey and Bartholomew, the former an upholsterer's porter, and the latter a coachman, had quarrelled at a pot-house in Oxford-street, on Saturday se'nnight; and in consequence of the coachman having pulled the porter's nose, they repaired to a spot not far distant to fight. A sanguinary battle took place, each being inebriated and unskilful; and after having been engaged half an hour, the coachman received a fall on the head, which terminated his existence. He was taken lifeless to the hospital.

Mrs. Buchan, the widow of a mercantile gentleman, was burned to death on Monday night, at her house in Marsh-place, New-road.

At day-break on Wednesday morning a man, who, by his habit and appearance, was supposed to have been a respectable countrymen, was found dead under the Park wall by a couple of gardeners, and the body was removed to the workhouse. He had some silver in his pockets, and appeared as if he had been intoxicated. It is supposed that the deceased met his death by the cold weather.

Another man, of the name of Yates, known for many years as a beggar about the streets, was found dead at three o'clock on Wednesday morning, in Oxford-street. He was lame in one arm, and was seen daily in the fashionable promenades at the West end of the town.

MARRIAGES.

On Sunday last, at the Parish Church of St. Pancras, by the Rev. Mr. Champneys, Richard Coulsisaw Sale, Esq. of Surrey-street, Strand, Solicitor, to Miss E. Wye, of Percy-street, Bedford-square.

DEATHS.

On Wednesday, at Catisfield, Hants, Rear-Admiral Edw. O'Bryen, who gallantly broke the line, in his Majesty's ship Monarch, in the action off Camperdown.

On Sunday last, at Bath, Admiral Lord Gardner. He was born at Uttoxeter, in Staffordshire, and was in his 66th year. His father was a Lieutenant Colonel in the 11th Regiment of Dragoon Guards, and a native of Coleraine, in the North of Ireland. Lord Gardner commenced his naval career on the 1st of May, 1755, on board the Medway, of 60 guns, commanded by Capt. Peter Dennis; he was in that ship in 1757, when, in company with the Eagle, they took the Duc d'Aquitaine, of 60 guns. On the 7th of March, 1760, he was advanced to a Lieutenant, and appointed to the Bellona, of 74 guns; he was afterwards in nine glorious actions, in all of which he displayed courage, skill, and magnanimity. He married in the year 1769, Miss Hyde, of Jamaica, and has left by her Ladyship, who survives him, a very numerous family, including two sons in the Navy.

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